

AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 1, line 30 with the following paragraph:

--This being the case, there is a continuing need to provide improved methods of preparing latex particulates having functional groups on the surface, which can in turn be used for chemical reaction with target molecules. One example of such a functional group is an amino group, which is quite reactive. To prepare amino-functionalized latex polymer particles, there have been several ~~mechanisms~~ methods proposed. One ~~mechanism~~ method has been by copolymerization of methacrylates containing hydroxyl and carbonyl groups, which are chemically modified to have an amino group on the surface. Other ~~mechanisms~~ methods have included post-polymerization of copolymers of styrene and ~~chloromethyl~~ chloromethyl styrene, the modification of carbonyl surface groups, or the nitration of polystyrene and reduction to amino groups. All of these methods can result in colloid systems that lack stability due to changes in the medium conditions, resulting in part from chemical reaction that occurs to provide the amino functional group.--